

# Behavioral Health Advisory Council Minutes

| MEETING DETAILS                                  |  |
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| <b>Date and time:</b>                            | June 19, 2019 at 10AM  |
| <b>Venue:</b>                                    | Conference Room @ VACSB Offices in Richmond, Virginia (10128 West Broad Street, Suite B, Glen Allen, VA 23060)   |
| COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS                             |  |
| Hayden Myer (MHAV/administrative agent for BHAC) |  |
| <b>Present</b>                                   | Katharine Hunter (DBHDS); Tara Belfast-Hurd (DBHDS Adult Svs); Livia Jansen (DJJ); Jean Hoyt (VDH); Patricia Parham (DOC MH Clinic); Nathanael Rudney (DBHDS); Shatada Floyd-White (Private Provider); Karlyn Clevert-Smith (Private Provider); Bruce Cruser (MHAV); Hilary Piland (VACSB); Caitlin Reynolds (NAMI VA); Malania Poore (VOCAL); Deidre Johnson (VOCAL); William Hart (Peer); Karen Kallay (Peer); Betsy Lalla (Peer)                          |
| <b>Guest (s)</b>                                 | Mark Blackwell (DBHDS Office of Recovery Services); Jenny Sappington (Peer); Mallory Ruff (Peer)   |
| <b>Absent</b>                                    | Winn, Oketa (DMAS); Catharine Harrison (DARS); Gail Taylor (DBHDS); Sandra O'Dell (Substance Abuse Services Council); Kathleen Levenston (Provider Adult MH); Michael Gregory (DoE – on Parental Leave); Larry Almarode (Peer – no longer member due to stepping down from Friends4Recovery); Ashley Everette (Voices for Virginia's Children); Marjorie Yates (Peer/SAARA); Ron Pritchard (VSIAS/VAAP); Calendria Jones (Peer); Robin Hairfield-Cook (Peer) |
| <b>Minutes Taken By</b>                          | Hayden Myer  |
| <b>Presiding Officer</b>                         | Bruce Cruser, Treasurer  |
| <b>Order Called</b>                              | Committees met at 10:00AM; Council convened at 10:32AM   |

Quorum **was present** in today's meeting (requires 14 members, a majority [7 out 14] of these members need be consumers/peers, advocates, and family members)

| No.   | Item | Discussion/Action   | Responsibility/Follow-Up (if applicable)  |
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| <b>Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment</b>   |      |   |   |
|   |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As no other officers were present, Bruce Cruser, Treasurer, called the Council to order at 10:32 AM</li> <li>Council members introduced themselves</li> <li>Larry Almarode was contacted about his interest in staying on as a member; he announced via Facebook that he is no longer working for Friends4Recovery and is resigning from the BHAC.</li> <li>Bruce then declared that a Quorum <b>was present</b>.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Membership Committee will reach out to Friends4Recovery to see about someone else serving on the Council</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings (October and December 2018; March and April 2019)</b> |      |   |   |
|   |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from October &amp; December 2018 as well as March 2019 submitted previously were approved unanimously.</li> <li>April Minutes were approved as corrected.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>October &amp; December 2018 and March &amp; April 2019 Minutes were approved</b></li> </ul>                             |
| <b>Nominating Committee Report/Slate of Elections</b>   |      |   |   |
|   |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malaina Poor gave the Nominating Committee report. The committee recommended the following slate of officers for the July 2019 – June 2020 term: William Hart (president), Betsy Lalla (Vice President), and Hilary Piland (Secretary).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Officer voting results: William Hart is now BHAC President, Betsy Lalla is</b></li> </ul>                               |

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|                          |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The floor was opened for any other nominations. There were none so the Chair closed the nominations, and nominees were asked to give a brief introduction</li> <li>William Hart shared his desire to have the Council continue to grow stronger and to focus on what's best for Peers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karen Kallay endorsed William due to his helpfulness and his knowledge of the Bylaws</li> <li>Motion and second to elect William Hart as President and all approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Betsy Lala has been a member for 8 years; has seen ups and downs of the Council; has only missed 3 meetings in the last 8 years; she shared that she would be honored to serve with William and to recharge membership within the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion and second to elect Betsy Lala as Vice President and all approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Hilary shared that this will be a natural role for her to transition into and that she would look forward to working with William and Betsy; Hilary is Policy Planner for the VACSB, and she serves on many other committees such as this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion and second to elect Hilary Piland as Secretary and all approved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Malaina said the Membership Committee would like to thank all membership and leadership on the Council</li> <li>Nathanael asked about Bruce's role as Treasurer of the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce shared that because MHAV is the Administrative Agent and Fiscal Agent, it is set in the Memorandum of Understanding that Bruce remains on as Treasurer</li> </ul> </li> <li>Karen asked for clarification about the membership of organizations vs individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Betsy explained that if one person for an organization cannot make it, then another person could come as a proxy. Individuals are not able to have a proxy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Vice President, Hilary Piland is Secretary, Bruce Crusier remains as Treasurer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Council reminds organizations that a representative from that organization can attend and vote on behalf of their organization if the designated person is unable to attend.</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Committee Reports</b> |  |   |  |
|                          |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Financial Report:</b> Bruce reported that there is a balance of \$7738 in the BHAC account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The only expenses this year have been administrative and meeting related expenses (e.g. food, mileage)</li> <li>The Council can co-sponsor/help pay for a BHAC member to attend training; these requests should be sent to the Membership/Nominating Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Block Grant Committee:</b> Karen reviewed a one-page list of recommendations from the subcommittee. There were questions about Recommendation #1 related to communication with DBHDS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hilary said the Committee wanted to discuss who to correspond with at DBHDS (other than just Nathanael) to maintain continuity and momentum with the Dept.</li> <li>Katharine Hunter asked if Mira Signer should be included, and for anything that has to do with legislation, Heidi Dix to be included</li> <li>Karen shared that the BHAC could be a great advocacy group; Karen gave praise to Nathanael and his role as DBHDS</li> <li>William asked for an overall clarification that the recommendations are about workflow (and that the Council communicates with DBHDS through Nathanael); any formal letter goes out to the Council, and then the President signs the letter; the Council also determines who the letter is to go to at DBHDS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nominating and Membership Committee will work to come up with a plan for webpage for the BHAC and an online repository of information to be available</b></li> <li><b>Council members are reminded to send request for co-sponsoring/helping to pay for trainings to Membership Committee for review</b></li> <li><b>Children and Youth Committee should come up with a report about the changes with Title 4E Funds so the Council can</b></li> </ul> |

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|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Committee asked to have item #1 dropped from this recommendation letter and have the Committee re-discuss it. All agreed.</li> <li>○ Item #2 and 3 are what to focus on for the summer and the bottom of the letter is about things to do in the Fall; some of these items are reiteration of what the Council already does <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bruce opened up questions from the floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership Committee shared that #2 might be hard and not the direction that the Committee will go</li> <li>• Deidre suggested the Membership Committee determine how they would like to move forward with building membership</li> <li>• William said we should have a repository for documents</li> <li>• Bruce shared that both MHAV and DBHDS have pages on the website about the BHAC;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Adult and Elderly Committee:</b> Would like to send a letter about levels of care certification LGBTQIA+ information trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 4:30: DBHDS is having a training about LGBTQIA</li> <li>○ August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Virginia School Council Association training</li> <li>○ Malaina shared that SAGE focuses on this and puts together resources; VOCAL has put together a toolkit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Children &amp; Youth Committee:</b> Federal funding through Title 4E; this is the first time the Feds have changed this legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Katharine shared that the money is being moved to prevention (shift kids out of congregate care; the money will be able to be used to assist some parents and kids, not just kids); DHBDS and other agencies are on the workgroups for working out how the roll-out will take place; 50% of the services have to evidenced-based services; this is a huge shift</li> <li>○ Karlyn shared the Feds are mandating that all sizes of therapeutic homes to get certifications with CARF, COA, etc; this is very expensive for these therapeutic facilities, especially smaller facilities; Karlyn shared her belief that DJJ has evidenced-based training that would be appropriate</li> <li>○ Katharine shared that DSS is leading this process (which has a three-branch institute); the Fed is no longer going to use the California Clearinghouse, and right now many questions remain about what programs will be approved</li> <li>○ Bruce suggested updates at future meetings could be helpful</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>better understand what is being changed</b>  |
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| <b>BHAC Letters from the Commissioner</b> |  |  |   |
|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathanael shared that our letter to the Commissioner for increased funding for peer services was heard. For this year, there is an increase of at least \$250,127 for peer organizations; A report from Ramona Howell from the fiscal department will go over this more</li> <li>• Mark shared that the money went out to existing grantees due to time constraints for the disbursement of the money (disbursed in September, to be spent by December of this year)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There has been an increase of at least \$250,127 budgeted for peer organizations this year</b></li> </ul> |

| BREAK FOR LUNCH & DBHDS Update from Nathanael & Katharine |  |   |   |
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|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nathanael shared that DBHDS is instituting a new process where all offices of DBHDS have input into the Block Grant Process; turnover has caused some issues with this process. DBHDS has a goal of establishing standard operating procedures for the future to be able to get information out to the public in a more timely manner</li> <li><b>Virginia's new application for federal Block Grant funds is in process.</b></li> <li>A new letter from the BHAC is required for the Block Grant Application; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deidre asked about the public comment for the completed application</li> <li>Draft has to be completed by July; a month must be given for public comment, so in August, public comment is opened; September, the public comments are included with the MH Block Grant Application and Letter</li> <li>Nathanael asked about how the Council wants to do for the letter to accompany the MH Block Grant</li> <li>Bruce and William agreed that drafting a letter before the August meeting; the Executive Council will get Council's opinions about a draft of the letter for the next meeting</li> <li>It would be ideal to submit the draft letter by August 1<sup>st</sup> (mid-July would be best) for when the Mental Health Block Grant Application is submitted</li> <li>Karen proposed that the Block Grant Committee be included in drafting this letter; William (president-elect) agreed, and shared that the Block Grant Committee will work to draft an update</li> </ul> </li> <li>Block Grant is always a year behind (money comes in October and not spent till July)</li> <li>Some of the increase in funding has been allocated to Peer Services</li> <li>Katharine Hunter gave an update about Child and Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared that DBHDS has hired someone to work on VMAP; this summer, DBHDS is doing many evidenced-based trainings other than STEP-VA, the Behavioral Health Redesign, etc. Here are the main two evidenced-based services that DBHDS is going to work on training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (services for kids and families around ages 2 to 7)</li> <li>TFCBT (3 Cohorts: Blacksburg, Arlington, Newport News): 108 clinicians are going to be trained and have a year to take the exam</li> <li>Learning Collaborative starting in far Southwest Virginia (for kids 0 to 5); Katharine asked that if any Council member has any ideas, this would be helpful</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>STEP-Virginia and CSB Funding Reports (which are 2 JLARC reports have just come out); they should be sent to the Council</li> <li>Mark Blackwell shared updates in the Office of Recovery Services (DBHDS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There's a lot going on with Recovery Services and Peer Services, STEP-5; DBHDS has indicated an understanding that Peers should be included in every step</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Nathanael will distribute the BHAC letter sent with the prior Block Grant application; the Block Grant Committee will update the letter</b></p> <p><b>BHAC Members will be notified when public comment period is available for the Block Grant Application from DBHDS</b></p> <p><b>Block Grant Committee will work on a letter to accompany the Block Grant Application</b></p> <p><b>Several reports (such as 2 JLARC reports) will be circulated to the council</b></p> |

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|   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Next STEP (Comprehensive Crisis Response will be including more peers in the planning and implementation);</li> <li>○ Mark talked about the shift to focusing on the disparities; there is a system-wide Needs Assessment to provide a preliminary report in August</li> <li>○ Mark shared that he is the recovery and peer cheerleader and has been happy with the inclusion of peers; there is a move towards outcomes-based measures and the use of best practices as well as adequate reporting</li> <li>• Karen asked about the “Unallocated” funds at the bottom of the “Virginia Mental Health Block Grant Budgets, FY 2019 and FY 2020”; Nathanael explained that this was not-budgeted but has been allocated</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>DBHDS Fiscal Department to Discuss FY 2019 (Ramona Howell)</b> |  |   |  |
|   |  | <p>Question and Answers Opened to Ramona Howell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruce asked about “unallocated funds”; these are un-budgeted funds that have not been allocated; Bruce asked for a plan for that money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramona shared that there’s a partnership with the program staff to discuss how and where to spend those funds; there’s an immediate need to get funds spent</li> <li>○ There will be more money allocated to peer-run services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bruce also asked about the one-time bump (\$1.7m that the state received); this goes to next year’s budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For Peer Services, the budgets will be increased to include</li> <li>○ Virginia Tech gets workforce development funding (represented by a one-time increase for Family Support Training)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nathanael shared that there is some ambiguity, that DBHDS needs to explain the changes</li> <li>• Mark shared there are 4 funding streams: SA Block Grant, MH Block Grant, Commissioner’s Discretionary Funds, State Funds</li> <li>• Bruce expressed that this goes back to the need for the Council to have an understanding of the funding that’s available from all sources. He asked about local money and wondered if DBHDS has those numbers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nathanael shared that the Block Grant reports that are due at the end of the year do give a picture of the entirety of funding streams</li> <li>○ Bruce asked for an accurate write up for the substance abuse block grant and the mental health block grant; He also asked for a breakout of what the local Community Services Boards receive from Block Grants and other funds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Karen asked about “Program Evaluation and Data Reporting” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramona shared that this amount may be higher</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Karen also asked about “Adult with Serious Mental Illness”</li> </ul> |  |

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|                   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That is allocated based on what some of the CSBs are doing; the amount is captured on internal call center data</li> <li>○ This also is a broad services description</li> <li>• There are state legislative requirements through the Appropriations Act (in addition to federal funding requirements); there are federal set asides requirements and states can add in set-asides</li> <li>• It was discussed that the Block Grant is set to fund gaps and William wanted to know why other programs (such as PACT) are included in Block Grant Funding when they receive funding elsewhere</li> <li>• Ramona will take the feedback to her team, and make sure she gets clarification about the other side(s) of the funding stream that she is not involved with; going forward - all of the information will be presented to the Council</li> <li>• The Council thanks Ramona for her time and for answering the questions she could</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Next Steps</b> |  |   |  |
|                   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work that BHAC is doing is very important; there are lots of changes going on in the Commonwealth, and lots of balls in the air</li> <li>• Katharine will ask about a report from the Behavioral Health Redesign report about reimbursement rates</li> <li>• Bruce talked about the need to focus on both the short-term and long-term; for example, the current system crisis with the lack of services/beds for people in crisis or under custody orders</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hayden to send out the revised Membership Application to the Council for review for the next meeting.</b></li> </ul> |

| <b>Agency Updates</b>                   |                       |  |  |
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|   |                       |  |  |
| <b>Meeting was adjourned at 1:55PM.</b> | Notes by Myer, Cruser |  |  |
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**Next Meeting:** August 21, 2019

**Location of meetings for each meeting in 2019:** VACSB Conference Room

**List of All Meeting Dates for 2019**

February 20, 2019 (Rescheduled to March 25, 2019)

April 17, 2019

June 19, 2019

August 24, 2019

October 16, 2019

December 4, 2019 (note: this is a change due to VACSB availability)

**MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON AUGUST 21, 2019**